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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION 1 KRISTIN K. MAYES 2 Arizona Corporation Commission Chairman **GARY PIERCE** DOCKETED 3 Commissioner SANDRA KENNEDY 4 DEC 10 2010 Commissioner PAUL NEWMAN 5 DOCKETED BY Commissioner nr **BOB STUMP** 6 Commissioner 7 DOCKET NOS. W-02065A-07-0306 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION 8 OF WILHOIT WATER COMPANY, INC. -W-02065A-07-0307 9 W-02065A-07-0312 THUNDERBIRD MEADOWS SYSTEM, AN W-02065A-08-0138 ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR 10 APPROVAL OF FINANCING 72006 DECISION NO. 11 ORDER AMENDING 12 **DECISION NO. 71234** 13 14 Open Meeting 15 November 22 and 23, 2010 Phoenix, Arizona 16 BY THE COMMISSION: 17 FINDINGS OF FACT 18

## Introduction and Background

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- 1. On August 6, 2009, the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") issued Decision No. 71234 which, among other things, authorized Wilhoit Water Company, Inc. Thunderbird Meadows System ("Company") to incur long-term debt financing from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority ("WIFA") in the amount of \$145,877 at an interest rate no greater than prime plus 2 percent, over 20 years, for the purpose of funding improvements to the Company's storage capacity.
- 2. That Decision also approved incorporation of an infrastructure surcharge mechanism. Implementation of the actual surcharge was authorized in Decision No. 71905, issued September 28, 2010.

- 3. On March 10, 2010, pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252, the Company filed a request to reopen the dockets and modify the loan amount that was authorized in Decision No 71234.
- 4. According to the Company, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a memorandum declaring that all loans issued by WIFA must comply with Davis-Bacon Act Wage Requirements. To comply with all of the requirements of Davis-Bacon, the contractor selected by the Company was forced to revise the costs needed to install the new storage capacity.
- 5. The Company asserted that the additional costs to comply with the Davis-Bacon requirements amount to \$14,123; therefore, the Company requested that Decision No. 71234 be amended to authorize it to borrow \$160,000 to complete the storage project.
- 6. In a Commission Staff meeting held August 31, 2010, the Commission voted to reopen the above-referenced dockets in order to reconsider Decision 71234, per the Company's request.

## **Revised Estimated Loan Payments**

7. Based on an amended WIFA loan amount of \$160,000 and a 3.675 percent interest rate, Staff calculates that the Company would need an additional \$5,521 and \$5,788 annually for principal and interest, respectively, for a total of \$11,309 for debt service on the loan. This results in an increase of only about \$1,000 over the previously-approved annual loan payment amount of \$10,310.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 8. Staff concludes that authorization of an additional \$14,123, which equates to a revised WIFA loan amount of \$160,000, to ensure that the Company is compliant with the Davis-Bacon Act, is reasonable and appropriate.
- 9. Staff recommends that the Commission amend Decision No. 71234 and revise the Company's authorized loan amount to be \$160,000, subject to the same financing conditions as specified in that Decision.
- 10. We find that Staff's conclusions and recommendations are reasonable and appropriate and should be adopted.

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SERVICE LIST FOR: Wilhoit Water Company, Inc. – Thunderbird Meadows System 1 DOCKET NOS. W-02065A-07-0306, W-02065A-07-0307, W-02065A-07-0312, and 2 W-02065A-08-0138 3 4 Mr. Jim West 5 Authorized Representative West & Company, LLC. 6 365 East Coronado Road, Suite 200 Phoenix, Arizona 85004 7 Mr. Steven M. Olea 8 Director, Utilities Division 9 Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington 10 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 11 Ms. Janice Alward Chief, Legal Division 12 Arizona Corporation Commission 13 1200 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

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